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USSR-BANGLADESH: The communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman's visit to Moscow indicates that the Soviets gained his backing on foreign affairs and proceeded cautiously on the question of a major aid commitment.

In the communique, Bangladesh associates itself with a variety of Soviet positions, including support for the seven-point program of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the 1967 UN resolution on the Middle East, and even the proposed conference on European security.

Moscow agreed to proceed with over \$40 million in projects begun in Bangladesh under credits extended to Pakistan prior to the war. It also indicated that some further aid for reconstruction of industries, transport, and fisheries, and the training of technicians would be made available. However, no specific new projects or amounts of aid were mentioned, although a ten-man Soviet team has been in Bangladesh assessing the economy.

Continuing contacts are to be maintained between the trade unions and youth organizations in the two countries. The Soviet leaders also accepted an invitation to visit Bangladesh, but no date was set.

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UN - SOUTH AFRICA: Secretary-General Waldheim's hopes for a relatively non-contentious visit to South Africa and the territory of South-West Africa (Namibia) beginning today may prove overly optimistic.

The five-day trip, the first to the area by a high-ranking UN official in many years, was authorized by the Security Council last month in a resolution calling on Waldheim to initiate "contacts with all parties" to the dispute over Pretoria's refusal to withdraw from the territory. The secretary-general views his mission only as exploratory, and he will avoid statements that could foreclose further discussions. He has taken along only a minimal staff and no representatives of the Security Council's consultative group on the territory.

Prime Minister Vorster, who extended an invitation to Waldheim without acknowledging the Council resolution, appears to view the visit mainly as another opportunity to make Pretoria's case and to take the measure of Waldheim. His government, nevertheless, has moved harshly against dissident elements that are seeking to contact Waldheim. Four Anglican clergy have been expelled from South-West Africa and Lutheran clergymen in the territory also have been harassed. One of the expellees hopes to meet Waldheim in Cape Town and to petition the UN in New York.

Waldheim's itinerary in South-West Africa is shrouded in secrecy, but his mission would lose credibility unless he sees a representative of the restive blacks. Tension in the territory is noticeable in the wake of the Ovambos' strike against their white employers. Stringent security measures, restricting the Ovambos' freedom of movement and limiting their right to legal counsel, are still in effect.

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NOTE

~~U~~ MALTA-UK: Some progress was made in talks yesterday between Prime Minister Mintoff and British Defense Secretary Lord Carrington, but a number of differences have yet to be decided. The discussions were friendly and calm, in contrast to previous stormy sessions, with some movement by both sides on bilateral Malta-UK issues. One British official believes that the remaining bilateral questions can be resolved. Mintoff did not reject the UK-NATO offer of \$36.4 million annually, but he is still insisting on an additional, one-time payment of \$13 million. The Maltese leader will meet again with Carrington this morning, and later in the day with Prime Minister Heath, the first meeting between the two since last September.

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